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ORIGIN WHA-00

RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.4(D)

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AMAD-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DS-00
	EUR-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	JUSE-00	LAB-01
	L-00	VCE-00	NSAE-00	OIC-02	P-00	SP-00	SS-00
	R-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/005R	

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SOURCE: DISKETTE.020728

DRAFTED BY: WHA/AND:BRNARANJO:BRN -- 04/14/02 X74216ANDVE02/CABLES/RAL

APPROVED BY: WHA:OJREICH

WHA:JCSTRUBLE WHA/AND:JDFARRAR D:KBUE P:TLENDERKING

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WESTERN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPL POSTS IMMEDIATE

INFO NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

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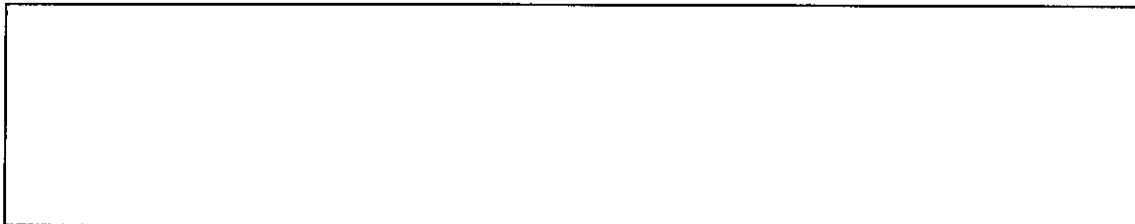
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TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PHUM, KDEM, VE

SUBJECT: RALLYING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR VENEZUELAN  
DEMOCRACY

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR WESTERN  
HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS OTTO J. REICH. REASONS: 1.5(B) AND  
(D).



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS  
DATE/CASE ID: 30 AUG 2004 200400110

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BACKGROUND  
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3. (U) ON APRIL 11, HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF VENEZUELAN GATHERED TO SEEK REDRESS OF THEIR GRIEVANCES. CHAVEZ SUPPORTERS FIRED ON ANTI-GOVERNMENT PROTESTORS RESULTING IN MORE THAN 100 WOUNDED OR KILLED. VENEZUELAN MILITARY AND POLICE REFUSED GOVERNMENT ORDERS TO FIRE ON DEMONSTRATORS. THE GOVERNMENT PREVENTED FIVE INDEPENDENT TELEVISION STATIONS FROM REPORTING ON EVENTS. AFTER MEETING WITH SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS, CHAVEZ ALLEGEDLY RESIGNED THE PRESIDENCY. A PROVISIONAL CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT, LED BY PEDRO CARMONA, ASSUMED POWER AND PROMISED EARLY ELECTIONS.

4. (U) ON APRIL 12, PEDRO CARMONA WAS SWORN IN AS PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT. THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THE DISSOLUTION OF VENEZUELA'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND SUPREME TRIBUNAL OF JUSTICE. SUBSEQUENTLY, ON APRIL

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13, CARMONA, WHO HAD BEEN UNDER INTENSE U.S.,  
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INTERNATIONAL, AND DOMESTIC PRESSURE TO MAINTAIN  
CONSTITUTIONAL CONTINUITY, REVERSED COURSE AND REINSTATED  
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND CHARGED IT WITH SELECTING A  
PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT.

5. (U) THROUGHOUT APRIL 13, HOWEVER, PRO-CHAVEZ FORCES  
MADE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO RESTORE CHAVEZ TO THE  
PRESIDENCY. PRO-CHAVEZ FORCES SEIZED THE MIRAFLORES  
PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, SWORE IN CHAVEZ VICE PRESIDENT  
DIOSDADO CABELLO AS ACTING PRESIDENT, AND SEIZED OR FORCED  
THE EVACUATION OF ALL MEDIA OUTLETS. FINALLY, TROOPS  
LOYAL TO CHAVEZ SEIZED CONTROL OF FUERTE TIUNA, HOME OF  
VENEZUELA'S MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, AND ARRESTED CARMONA AND  
HIS MILITARY HIGH COMMAND. CHAVEZ RETURNED TO CARACAS AND  
RESUMED HIS PRESIDENCY.

6. (U) PRESIDENT CHAVEZ ADDRESSED THE NATION EARLY IN  
THE MORNING ON APRIL 14. IN HIS ADDRESS, CHAVEZ:  
PROMISED HE WOULD NOT RETALIATE AGAINST OR PERSECUTE HIS  
OPPONENTS, SAID HE WOULD REFLECT ON HIS ACTIONS AND URGED  
OTHERS TO DO SO AS WELL, ISSUED A CALL FOR NATIONAL  
ROUNTABLES OF DIALOGUE TO BEGIN ON APRIL 18, SAID HE HAD  
NOT BEEN MISTREATED, AND STATED THAT HE HAD NEVER  
RESIGNED.

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U.S. POSITION ON EVENTS IN VENEZUELA  
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7. (U) BEGIN TEXT OF WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT:

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE APRIL 14, 2002

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

THE UNITED STATES IS MONITORING THE SITUATION IN VENEZUELA  
WITH GREAT CONCERN. WE DEEPLY REGRET THE VIOLENCE AND  
LOSS OF LIFE, AND CALL ON ALL VENEZUELANES TO WORK  
PEACEFULLY TO RESOLVE THIS CRISIS.

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WE WELCOME AND SUPPORT THE DECISION BY THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES TO SEND IMMEDIATELY A FACT-FINDING MISSION HEADED BY SECRETARY GENERAL CESAR GAVIRIA TO VENEZUELA TO SUPPORT THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF FULL DEMOCRACY, WITH GUARANTEES FOR CITIZENS AND RESPECT FOR FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC CHARTER.

THE PEOPLE OF VENEZUELA HAVE SENT A CLEAR MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT CHAVEZ THAT THEY WANT BOTH DEMOCRACY AND REFORM. THE CHAVEZ ADMINISTRATION HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND TO THIS MESSAGE BY CORRECTING ITS COURSE AND GOVERNING IN A FULLY DEMOCRATIC MANNER.

PRESIDENT CHAVEZ HAS NOW CALLED FOR NATIONAL REFLECTION AND DIALOGUE. HE NEEDS TO SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ENSURE LEGITIMACY BY REACHING OUT TO THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION, CIVIL SOCIETY, AND TO ALL DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN VENEZUELA.

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THE UNITED STATES AND THE WORLD COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRACIES WILL BE CLOSELY FOLLOWING EVENTS IN VENEZUELA. PRESIDENT CHAVEZ BEARS PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITY TO PRESERVE THE PEACE, TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS, AND TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS NECESSARY FOR A NATIONAL DIALOGUE. WE CALL ON HIM TO WORK WITH ALL VENEZUELAN AND WITH THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES TOWARD THIS END.

END TEXT OF WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT.  
POWELL

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